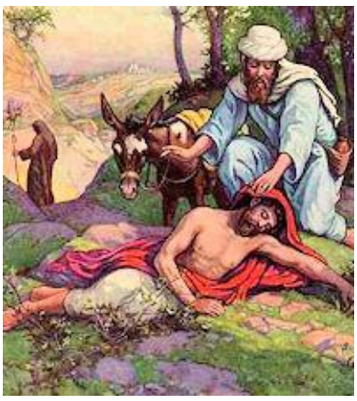

Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

October 25, 2026

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus 22:20-26*. These verses cover the Israelites' duties toward strangers (non-Israelites), widows and orphans and the poor in general. They are a practical application of the law of charity in their dealings with their neighbors.

The **Second Reading** is from the *First Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 1:5c-10.* St. Paul continues to praise the Thessalonians, not only for accepting the faith in difficult circumstances, but for the wonderful example their Christian life had already given to most of Greece.

The **Gospel** is from *Matthew 22:34-40*. The Pharisees may not have had evil intentions when asking Christ the question as to the greatest commandment. But they have done us a good service by getting this crystal clear answer from him. In this answer he tells us that the man who loves God and neighbor fulfills all his obligations, and carries out all the duties that God's self-revelation in "the law and the prophets" imposes on him. God revealed himself to us in the Old Testament as our Creator and divine benefactor. He had no need of us, since he is infinitely perfect in himself, but out of his infinite goodness he wished to share his eternal kingdom of happiness with mankind and so he created us. That we should love such a benefactor and be grateful to him is not asking much of us; such love should surely be the spontaneous reaction of a rational being, and yet there were and there are many who fail to acknowledge any such obligation.

No Christian, worthy of the name, can ever be among such thoughtless and thankless people. We have greater proofs of God's love for us than "the law and the prophets" gave to the Israelites. We have the added proofs of God's infinite interest in us brought to us by the Incarnation. We have been raised to the sublime status of adopted sons of God.

Where Christians can, and too often do fail, is in their true love of neighbor. Yet Christ says that this commandment is like the first. Love of neighbor is an essential part of our obligations toward God. If we fail in this we fail in our love for God, for we refuse to carry out this sacred duty. If we do not recognize our neighbor as our brother, we do not recognize God as our Father and we do not love him. As St. John puts it: "Anyone who says 'I love God' and hates (does not love) his neighbor is a liar" (1 Jn. 3: 20).

Let each one of us ask himself today how seriously he takes this law of fraternal charity and how faithfully he carries it out. Not all of us may be able to give material help to a neighbor in need but the poorest of us can spare a kindly word, an encouraging word, for a neighbor weighed down with cares and troubles. All of us can pray for a neighbor who needs spiritual and temporal help. Most of us can deny ourselves some unnecessary luxuries in order to give a needed loaf of bread to a hungry fellowman, while those who have an abundance of this world's goods need not look far afield to find cases and causes worthy of their Christian charity.

Remember that whatever spiritual or material help is given out of true charity to a neighbor in need, is given to God, and whatever is given to God is soundly invested in heaven, and heaven pays handsome dividends.

—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
October 18, 2026

Envelopes	$155.00
Loose	$70.00
Cemetery Fund	$100.00
Donation	$350.00
	$675.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Sewing/Handicraft group will meet every Thursday at 1 pm, starting October 8th. Bring a project or idea and sew, knit and/or craft with others. Everyone welcome. Location: District 10 Fire Department, Red Islands. Contact: Rita Campbell 902 631 0209

2: Weekly Wednesday morning coffee starts again on October 14, 2026, at the Red Islands District 10 Fire Hall: 9:00 am – 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome.

3: Big Pond Fire Dept Community Centre Fall Market Saturday October 24th, from 10:00pm – 2:00pm. This year we have lots of makers, bakers and other creators with so much to offer! Admission $2.00, children 12 and under free.

4: Lakeside Community Association: Fall Fair will be held, Saturday October 24, 2026 10AM – 2PM. Location: Lake Community Centre, 8598 West Bay Highway, Sampsonville. Vendors / Bake Sale / 50/50 Mini Bingo (2PM). Lunch available: Sandwich $5, Sweet $1 and Tea/Coffee $1.

5: COMFORT TEA … Come For Tea – October 27, 2026: We all experience many types of losses throughout our lives. To promote awareness of the impact of grief, you are invited to join us for a beverage and sweets. You may bring a friend, photo, memento, or memory to share or just be with others who understand. 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at the Riverdale Community Center, 106 Vince McCarthy Drive, Lower River Inhabitants, N.S. Hosted by the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society. All are welcome.

6: Preserving Faces and Voices: The Human Person in the Age of AI with Dr. David Deane, Atlantic School of Theology
Thursday, October 29, 6:30 - 8:00 pm St. Ninian Place, Antigonish
Presented by Vicar of the Founder Lecture Series, St. Francis Xavier University
A discussion on *Magnifica Humanitas*, the encyclical of Pope Leo XIV ... a vital conversation for all of us as humanity faces a choice: "to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together. "Admission Free. Light Refreshments. All Welcome.

7: Saturday October 31st. Calling all witches, warlocks, wizards and other Halloween creatures to the Johnstown Parish Hall Saturday October 31st Time: 2pm
First will be a witch's dance and chant, followed by spooky games and snacks. So if it is your first Halloween or your 100th, please come and enjoy. Dress up is welcome but not required All are welcome

8: In remembrance of our loved ones: November is the month of remembering those who have died. It is customary in our parish to remember our loved ones who have died since November of the previous year. Consequently, there will be a candlelight service of remembrance at the Sunday mass on November 1st. As the names are read, a family member will be invited to come to the stand to light a candle. Those to be remembered can include parishioners who have died during the year, relatives of parishioners whose burials took place in other parishes or relatives of people who were buried in Johnstown. Please call or email Louise at 902-535-3107/ louisecampbel@gmail.com

9: Christmas Bingo: Sunday November 8th, at the Johnstown Hall. Lots of great prizes, door prizes and a canteen. See you there.

10: The **Johnstown Community Development Cooperative** (JCDC) is holding the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 15th at 7:00 pm in Johnstown Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome **to** attend the AGM, although only JCDC members can vote. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact Rita Campbell, Chair, camprita@gmail.com, 902-631-0209 or another member of the Board (Barbara MacIntyre, Howard MacIntyre, Dave Pearson, Rhonda Walker, or Kathleen Perchaluk)

11: Prepare Your Heart for Advent with Handel's Messiah As we begin the season of waiting and hope, you are warmly invited to a live performance of Handel's sacred masterpiece, Messiah, on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM at Marguerite Bourgeoys Church. Written over 280 years ago, Messiah continues to inspire millions with its powerful proclamation of faith, features the famous "Hallelujah" chorus, and brings the Scriptures to vivid life. Performed by full choir and orchestra. Admission is free (freewill offerings appreciated). Bring your family and neighbors to share in this glorious musical tradition.